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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$8,400 GRANT FOR CITY OF BERNIE

Greg C. Branum, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented \$8,400.00 Mock Check to the City of Bernie on June 24, 2005 to install new air conditioning in the recently acquired community center. The Community Facility Grant will benefit the residents of Bernie.

"I'm proud that the Bernie Community Center will have new air conditioning. In rural America, we must be diligent about seizing opportunities to improve our community facilities and infrastructure," said U.S. Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson. "This is a great investment in the quality of life for the citizens of Bernie. I am glad to support the efforts of Rural Development to identify and address this unique need from a program that is designed with rural communities in mind."



Names in picture front row: Reba Owens, Rob Mayor, Missouri State Senator, Jenny Goncher, U.S. Senator Talent's Office, Willard Adams, Mayor of Bernie, Greg Branum, State Director, and Greg Mathis, Stoddard County Presiding Commissioner.

Back row: Lois Hicks, Charlie Dean, Dewayne Lindley, and Kathy Cagle, Manager of the Dexter Local Office.

"The people of Bernie told us they needed a new air conditioner for their community center and we got them one," said U.S. Senator Jim Talent, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. "This new system will help keep residents cool in the summer months so they can enjoy an expanded range of activities. The goal of USDA Rural Development is to invest in our communities in Missouri and I'm pleased to help announce this funding."

"We are pleased to make this improvement to Bernie's Community Center. The air conditioning not only benefits our area residents but has allowed the City to accommodate Three Rivers Community College in their higher educational programs," states Mayor Willard Adams. "It is a win-win situation for the City."

"Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities," Branum added. "Appreciation is also extended to U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Kathy Cagle, at Dexter Office, 18450 Ridgeview Lane, Dexter, Missouri 63841 or by calling 573-624-5939.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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